

In the process of deciding what the Delta should look like in the future, surely it is desirable to understand what the Delta was like in the past, in climatic and evolutionary timescales as well as human. Therefore I propose that part of the Delta Vision include a description of the Delta and its hydrology, water quality, and biology at different timescales, determined from climatic and evolutionary changes. This description would necessarily be more qualitative than quantitative, but should include some modeling work to estimate tidal and seasonal water salinities that existed in the past.

The goal of this overview of ancient conditions (up to a few thousand years ago) would not be to return to them, but to give us an idea of past variation in flows, salinities, habitat, and flora and fauna. This would be helpful in guiding decisions for the future.

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